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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

48276 7590 09/24/2008

TIFFANY & BOSCO  
CAMELBACK ESPLANADE II, THIRD FLOOR  
2525 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD  
PHOENIX, AZ 85016

EXAMINER

POND, ROBERT M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,726	10/19/2001	Edward J. Shoen	12521-021	3972

TITLE OF INVENTION: ONLINE MARKETPLACE FOR MOVING AND RELOCATION SERVICES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	12/24/2008

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

## PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
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**or Fax (571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

48276                    7590                    09/24/2008  
**TIFFANY & BOSCO**  
**CAMELBACK ESPLANADE II, THIRD FLOOR**  
**2525 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD**  
**PHOENIX, AZ 85016**

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

### Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE** address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,726	10/19/2001	Edward J. Shoen	12521-021	3972

TITLE OF INVENTION: ONLINE MARKETPLACE FOR MOVING AND RELOCATION SERVICES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	12/24/2008
EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS				
POND, ROBERT M	3625	705-026000				

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,  
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent):  Individual  Corporation or other private group entity  Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

Issue Fee  
 Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
 Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

A check is enclosed.  
 Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
 The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.  b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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48276	7590	09/24/2008	EXAMINER	
TIFFANY & BOSCO CAMELBACK ESPLANADE II, THIRD FLOOR 2525 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD PHOENIX, AZ 85016				POND, ROBERT M
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3625				DATE MAILED: 09/24/2008

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 128 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 128 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/083,726	SHOEN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	

Robert M. Pond

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to A/F(9/9/08); Interviews(20080708; 20080724; 20080903); E.A. (20080916).
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-10 and 18-20.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 20080708; 20080724 .
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other Interview: 20080903.

/Robert M. Pond/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

#### ***Authorization***

Agreement and authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Richard E. Oney, #36,884 on 18 September 2008.

#### ***Claims Allowed***

Claims filed 09 September 2008 are entered. Claims 2-10 and 18-20 are allowed.

#### ***In the Claims***

The claims have been amended as follows:

- Delete claim 2 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -2. A method of providing, via a computer network marketplace, auxiliary services or goods relating to an originating transaction between a customer and a host, the method comprising:  
processing an originating transaction by accepting customer input requested by a host;

enabling a customer in the computer network marketplace to access content regarding an auxiliary service or good relating to the originating transaction;

processing a secondary transaction for the auxiliary service or good between the customer and a vendor listed in the marketplace;

accepting a payment from the customer for the service or good; issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and

after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code. - -

- Delete claim 3 in its entirety and insert therefore:  
- -3. A method of providing, via a computer network marketplace, auxiliary services or goods relating to moving or relocating upon completion of an originating transaction relating to moving or relocating, the method comprising:

processing an originating transaction by accepting customer input requested;

enabling a customer in the computer network marketplace to access content describing an auxiliary service or good relating to the originating transaction;

listing at least one vendor that can provide the auxiliary service or good; processing a secondary transaction for the auxiliary service or good between the customer and vendor; accepting a payment from the customer for the auxiliary service or good; issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code. --

- Delete claim 4 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -4. A method of providing, via a computer network marketplace, auxiliary services or goods relating to moving or relocating upon completion of an originating transaction between a customer and a host, wherein the originating transaction also relates to moving or relocation, the method comprising:  
processing an originating transaction by accepting customer input requested by a host;  
enabling the customer in the computer network marketplace to access content regarding an auxiliary service or good, wherein the auxiliary service or good and the originating transaction relates to moving and or relocating;  
processing a secondary transaction for the auxiliary service or good between the customer and a vendor listed in the marketplace;

accepting a payment from the customer for the service or good,  
issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary  
transaction; and

after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's  
receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the  
vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the  
confirmation code. - -

- Delete claim 18 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -18. A method of providing, via a computer network marketplace, a first service or good relating to a second service or good, the method comprising:  
processing an originating transaction by accepting customer input requested by a computer network marketplace;  
enabling a customer in the marketplace to access content describing the second service or good relating to the originating transaction;  
processing a secondary transaction for the second service or good between the customer and a vendor wherein the vendor is introduced to the customer by the marketplace and wherein the customer input for the originating transaction captured by the marketplace is used by the host to expedite processing of the secondary transaction;  
issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and

after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code. - -

- Delete claim 19 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -19. A method of providing a service or good relating to moving using a computer network marketplace, wherein the service is offered upon completion of an originating transaction between a customer and a marketplace, the method comprising:

processing an originating transaction by accepting customer input requested by the computer network marketplace;

enabling a customer in the marketplace to access content describing an auxiliary service or good relating to the originating transaction, wherein the auxiliary service or good and the originating transaction relates to moving;

processing a secondary transaction for the service or good between the customer and a vendor listed in the marketplace;

accepting a payment from the customer for the service or good;

issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and

after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the

vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code. - -

- Delete claim 20 in its entirety and insert therefore:

- -20. A computer system for providing auxiliary services or goods, via an online marketplace, relating to an originating transaction between a customer and a host, the system comprising:

one or more processors;

a computer readable memory accessible by the one or more processors, the computer readable memory containing programming instructions executable by the one or more processors for:

processing an originating transaction by accepting customer input requested by the host;

enabling a customer in the marketplace to access content describing an auxiliary service or good relating to the originating transaction;

processing a secondary transaction for the auxiliary service or good between the customer and a vendor listed in the marketplace;

accepting a customer payment for the service or good;

issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and

after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the

vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code. --

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The field of invention relates to electronic commerce and specifically relates to a customer/vendor electronic marketplace that permits a customer to transact business with the electronic marketplace and then receive services from a selected vendor listed by the marketplace that provides auxiliary services or goods related to the original transaction. In particular, the invention is useful in furthering electronic commerce within the moving and relocation services industry.

Regarding method claims 2, 3, 4, 18 and 19, the electronic marketplace processes a customer's originating transaction and enables the customer to access content listed by the electronic marketplace regarding an auxiliary service or good related to the originating transaction. Once the customer makes payment to the marketplace for an auxiliary service, the customer receives a confirmation code associated with the auxiliary service and instruction pertaining to confirmation code. Once the auxiliary service has been performed by the vendor, the vendor now in possession of the confirmation code uses the confirmation code to activate settlement via the marketplace. System claim 20 embodies the functionality of method claim 2. Method claims 3, 4, 18 and 19 offer minor

variations of method claim 2. For instance, claim 19 describes an auxiliary service or good relating to moving.

Neither the previously cited prior art nor closest prior art noted below alone or in combination with other prior art teach and suggest the combinations of methods as claimed.

Closest US Patent/US Patent Publication Prior Art

Previously cited prior art Raveis (US 2001/0037230 and US 6,321,202) in combination with Gilgoff fail to teach and suggest the combinations of methods as claimed. Raveis ('230, '202) alone or in combination with other prior art do not teach and suggest the combination of methods: issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code.

Forward and backward citations of Raveis '202 and forward citations of Raveis '230 failed to produce prior art that teach and suggest the combinations of methods as claimed.

Applicants' Admissions discloses a primary transaction and secondary transactions related to the primary transaction. Applicants' Admissions however fails to teach and suggest the combinations of methods as claimed. Applicants' Admissions alone or in combination with other prior art do not teach and suggest the combination of methods: issuing to the customer a confirmation code

associated with the secondary transaction; and after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code.

Walker (US 6,970,837) currently cited provides a system and methods of processing purchase request for a first product and subsequently taking possession of a substitute product at a retailer. The customer pays the online service for the first product and receives a redemption code. The redemption code is revealed to the retailer who may, based upon the type of product identified by the redemption code, offer the customer a substitute product. Walker however fails to teach and suggest the combinations of methods as claimed. Walker alone or in combination with other prior art do not teach and suggest the combination of methods: issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code. Walker reveals the redemption code to the retailer before taking possession of the substitute product which is used by the retailer and online service to complete settlement. Walker further lacks the combination of methods of processing an original transaction by the online service leading to a second transaction processed by the online

service for a good or service related to the first transaction resulting in the issuing of the confirmation code (or redemption code) to the customer.

Forward and backward citations of Walker (US 6,970,837, CIP of US 6,754,636) and Walker (US 6,754,636) failed to produce prior art that teach and suggest the combinations of methods as claimed. Of note from the forward and backward citations and based on keyword hits is Mori (US 6,085,168) which was reviewed and determined to not teach and suggest the combinations of methods as claimed.

Biffar (US 5,903,880) currently cited provides a system and methods of a self-contained payment system with circulating digital vouchers. Biffar's invention establishes an escrow account for the user from which the user draws funds to make payments for items or services. User A creates a digital voucher with transferable value via the system, forwards the digital voucher to User B permitting User B to redeem the voucher for its corresponding value. A settlement process debits User A's escrow account and increases User B's account by the transferable amount of the redeemed digital voucher. Biffar, however, fails to teach and suggest the combinations of methods: issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code. Biffar alone or in combination with other prior art do not teach and suggest the

combination of methods: issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction, instructing the customer to provide the confirmation code to the vendor after performance of the service or delivery of the good; and activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code.

Forward and backward citations of Biffar failed to produce prior art that teach and suggest the combinations of methods as claimed.

#### Closest Non-patent Literature

Gilgoff (Paper #20061120, Item U) alone or in combination with Raveis or other prior art do not teach and suggest the combination of methods: issuing to the customer a confirmation code associated with the secondary transaction; and after performance of the service or delivery of the good and the vendor's receipt of the confirmation code from the customer, activating a payment to the vendor for the service or good in response to the vendor entering the confirmation code.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Pond whose telephone number is 571-272-6760. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jeff Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert M. Pond/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625  
September 18, 2008